

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 5, 2022

The Honorable Jigar Shah  
Director, Loan Programs Office  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Director Shah,

Thank you for your public service. The Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office (LPO) is leading the charge to help our environment and our economy by bridging gaps in the lending market for projects that directly confront the climate crisis. Innovative projects can more readily access the capital that they need to succeed thanks to your office's use of loans and loan guarantees. We write to you now in support of using these tools to help grow an industry with enormous potential to reduce global carbon emissions.

As you may know, one of the newest and fastest growing industries in the United States is the alternative protein sector, which is creating food proteins from plants, animal cells, and microorganisms that mimic the characteristics of conventional animal proteins. Over 300 American companies currently compose this emerging industry, which has the potential to deliver 14 to 20 percent of the emissions mitigation that the world needs until 2050 to stay below 1.5°C, a savings of 10 to 14 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub>-eq per year.<sup>1</sup>

Given the enormous environmental benefits that can be realized from the success of this sector and the potential of loans and loan guarantees to help accelerate scaling up the production of these products, we are writing to ask if your office is able to assist these companies. We believe that support from your office would be consistent with the Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy's (EERE) mission to support the development and deployment of innovative technologies that will put America on track to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economy wide by 2050.

We request written responses to the following questions:

- 1) What role could your office play in assisting the alternative proteins industry in continuing to grow?
- 2) What, if any, reforms would be required in order to ensure that makers of plant-based, cultivated, and fermented proteins are able access your programs?

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<sup>1</sup> [Global Food System Transition is Necessary to Keep Warming Below 1.5°C.](#)

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- 3) Has your office made any determinations or reviewed eligibility decisions, even interim, regarding the eligibility of the alternative protein industry? If not, please provide a timeline for when a decision may be reached and made publicly available.

Thank you again for the critical contributions you are making to support businesses innovating in ways that benefit our climate and for your consideration of this information request. We look forward to your timely response.


Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

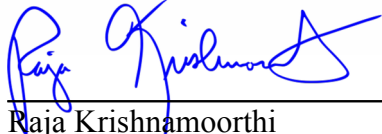


Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress